

## Narrative Summary – December 2021

The average temperature for December 2021 was warmer than normal, averaging 34.1°F, 1.5° above normal (32.6°F). The warmest December (1957) averaged 38.5°F, while the coldest (1985) averaged 21.0°F. The following temperature record was established during December 2021:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>New Record</u>	<u>Old Record</u>	<u>Year</u>
1	High Maximum	71	65	1972
1	High Minimum	49	45	1981
11	High Minimum	45 (Tie)	45	1946

Precipitation for December 2021 totaled 0.36 inches, 33% of normal (1.08 inches). The wettest December (1996) received 3.69 inches, while the driest December (2013) received 0.07 inches. Snowfall for December 2021 totaled 2.3 inches, compared to a normal of 4.4 inches. The snowiest December on record (1996) received 22.6 inches.

The average wind speed for December 2021 was 8.6 miles per hour (mph), which was 2.4 mph above normal (6.2 mph). This makes December 2021 the windiest December on record (breaking the previous December record of 8.3 mph set in 1949 and 1968). The December with the lightest winds (1985) averaged 3.3 mph. The peak gust for December 2021 was from the south-southwest at 48 mph on December 11. The record peak gust for December is 74 mph in 2006.

Calendar year 2021 averaged 56.7°F, which is 2.4°F above normal (54.3°F). This makes 2021 the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest on record. The warmest year (2015) averaged 57.5°F. The coolest year (1985) averaged 49.6°F. The hottest temperature during 2021 was 118°F on June 29 (all-time record). The coldest temperature was 4°F on December 31. Precipitation for 2021 totaled 5.37 inches, 75% of normal (7.15 inches). The wettest year (1995) received 12.31 inches, while the driest (1976) received 2.99 inches. The average wind speed for 2021 was 8.8 mph, which was 1.0 mph above normal (7.8 mph). This ties the record for the windiest year (which also occurred in 1999 and 2020).

The monthly climatological data summaries, as well as other information, are available on the Internet.

Address: <http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hms>

HMS Office 373-2716

**Note:** The data in this summary pertains specifically to the Hanford Meteorology Station (HMS), which is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Richland, WA. No attempt should be made to infer meteorological conditions at other locations from these data.